

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2006

Contact Person

Timothy M. O'Shea
Assistant U.S. Attorney

**ALABAMA MAN SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS IN PRISON
IN COMMERCIAL GUIDING CASE
INVOLVING ILLEGAL DEER HUNTING**

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jeffrey D. Godfrey, DOB 12/15/62, of Lillian, Alabama, was sentenced on March 22, 2006, by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to two concurrent terms of six months in prison. In addition, Godfrey was ordered to pay \$26,884 to the State of Wisconsin to compensate for the trophy white-tailed deer and wild turkey illegally harvested by Godfrey and his Florida and Alabama colleagues at Blue River Outfitters, a commercial guiding service that provided white-tailed deer and wild turkey hunts in Richland and Iowa Counties, Wisconsin.

On January 4, 2006, Godfrey pled guilty to a two-count information that charged him with: (Count 1) making a false label in connection with a ten-point trophy buck white-tailed deer, in velvet, and then transporting that deer from Wisconsin to Florida; and (Count 2) engaging in the sale and transportation of wildlife worth more than \$350, specifically, an 11-point trophy buck white-tailed deer, in velvet, knowing that the deer was taken in violation of Wisconsin law.

Forty-six hunters from eleven different states have faced charges in state and

federal courts following a two-year investigation into illegal white-tailed deer and turkey hunting in Richland and Iowa Counties, Wisconsin. In connection with interviews and six search warrants executed across the United States, officers seized 30 mounted trophy deer alleged to have been illegally taken, along with numerous rifles and compound bows.

United States Attorney Sinnott noted that the sentence was the result of a lengthy and complex investigation conducted jointly by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wardens and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Agents. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

#